

Title (en)
METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING A STEPPER MOTOR

Publication
EP 0064391 B1 19850807 (EN)

Application
EP 82302197 A 19820428

Priority
GB 8113614 A 19810502

Abstract (en)
[origin: US4489259A] A method and apparatus for controlling a stepper motor and a disk drive is described for minimization of stepper motor oscillations for a single step, minimizing the time taken for the stepper motor to move between tracks for multi-track seeks, and reduction of angular hysteresis due to the mechanical and magnetic properties of the stepper motor construction. This control is achieved using a microprocessor-based circuit adapted to drive the stepper motor in accordance with predetermined programs. Oscillations of the stepper motor are damped by controlling, using one program, the current applied to the stepper motor during the last step of its motion by switching this current on and off within small predetermined time intervals. The time taken to move between tracks is controlled by another program in which the non-linear torque speed characteristics of a particular stepper motor are matched by a non-linear pulse rate which is determined by data held in the memory of the microprocessor circuit. This data can be modified to suit the requirements of the stepper motor and load. Another program controls minimization of hysteresis by ensuring that each track on the disk is approached from the same direction and from the same previously energized set of windings. The microprocessor controls the direction of motion of the stepper motor and hence decides whether or not the read/write head should cross the desired track and return it to ensure uniformity of approach.

IPC 1-7
H02P 8/00

IPC 8 full level
H02P 8/00 (2006.01); **G05B 19/40** (2006.01); **H02P 8/20** (2006.01); **H02P 8/32** (2006.01)

CPC (source: EP US)
G05B 19/40 (2013.01 - EP US); **H02P 8/20** (2013.01 - EP US); **H02P 8/32** (2013.01 - EP US); **G05B 2219/41081** (2013.01 - EP US); **G05B 2219/41248** (2013.01 - EP US)

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Designated contracting state (EPC)
AT BE CH DE FR GB IT LI LU NL SE

DOCDB simple family (publication)
EP 0064391 A1 19821110; EP 0064391 B1 19850807; AT E14815 T1 19850815; CA 1189185 A 19850618; DE 3265203 D1 19850912; HK 71786 A 19861003; IE 52943 B1 19880413; IE 821001 L 19821102; JP S5829397 A 19830221; US 4489259 A 19841218

DOCDB simple family (application)
EP 82302197 A 19820428; AT 82302197 T 19820428; CA 402010 A 19820430; DE 3265203 T 19820428; HK 71786 A 19860925; IE 100182 A 19820428; JP 7506482 A 19820504; US 37328182 A 19820429